

in politics in Washington, D.C. got to know Steve.

The reason I am talking about Steve today is because I think that Steve Green represented the very best of one of the most important aspects of this democracy, and that is journalism.

Steve was a guy who was in the middle, in the heart of a lot of the very fundamental, earthshaking events in the last 34 years in Washington, D.C., and he was in the middle of the Watergate scandal. He covered a lot of national stories that had a great deal of importance to this country and to this town.

After he left the position of bureau chief for Copley, he went on to become the editor who covered the Pentagon and the United States military, a very, very important issue, especially for those of us from San Diego.

Throughout this stint of covering very important issues, issues which often revealed the sordid side of politics, like the bribery scandals and, to some degree, the Watergate scandal, Steve Green was a real person, was a real human being.

He was a guy who had a great sense of humor, a great sense of evenness, a great sense of decency. And those people, people with good hearts, are very important to this democracy, especially in a position in the center of journalism in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Steve when he was covering the San Diego congressional delegation, and you noticed in Steve's stories, Steve was a guy who got all the details. You could not pull the wool over his eyes. He knew what was going on, and he always kind of knew the story behind the story.

He also wrote those stories in a way that was very even, very fair-handed, without an agenda, and I think with a little sense of humor also, and with a sense of civility.

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With this entire city searching for civility and, of course, the President asking for it and using that as a trademark for this new administration, it is guys like Steve Green in Copley Press who really manifest that civility, because they do it in writing evenhanded stories and portraying to the great public out there what is really happening in Washington, D.C.

While sometimes there are sordid sides and bad sides for the story and stories that reveal some of the darker parts of human nature, he also liked to write a story that would reveal the better sides of human nature and justice and triumph in the end and the good things about America.

To be able to cover this period in which a lot of journalists turn to cynicism when looking at Washington, D.C. and this great Capitol, this people's House, to remember Steve Green sitting here in the Speaker's lobby with his pencil and his paper out taking an interview after a vote on the floor or

after something happened, and doing it in his evenhanded manner, his optimistic manner, always looking for the good aspect of the story was something that was very important to myself and to the other Members of the congressional delegation.

So Steve passed away, Mr. Speaker. He leaves a great legacy for Copley Press and for anybody who wants to be a journalist and cover the great national theater of action which is in Washington, D.C. with the Congress and the President and all of the aspects of a new administration like the one that is in place right now.

In fact, Alison, his daughter, sent me a few notes on Steve's life the other night, and I could tell from her conversation that she is kind of a chip off the old block. But he leaves Ginny. His widow is a wonderful lady. We all wish all the best to Steve's family.

#### EDUCATION BUDGET AND VALUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TOOMEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about education, the budget, and something those of us in North Carolina call North Carolina values.

Mr. Speaker, we have often heard that the projected budget surplus, assuming it materializes like predicted, is the people's money. Of course it is. It is the people's money. We agree on that. It should be spent on the people's priorities. The budget must reflect the values of the American people. It must affirm their long-term dreams and help them meet their daily needs.

This Congress should invest in a better future for the American people. We must build the human infrastructure. We need for an economy that creates the opportunity for prosperity for all Americans who are willing to work for it.

We must invest in long-term research in science and technology and engineering that will yield a long-term benefit but may not be seen as benefiting a short-term political gain. But it certainly will produce a strong economy down the road.

We must invest in education and lifelong learning so that Americans will have the most skilled work force in the world and continue to exert global economic leadership. We must repair the torn farm safety net so that farm families will have the opportunity, not only to survive, but to thrive.

Unfortunately, this House today passed along party lines a budget full of missed opportunities and misplaced priorities. Do not get me wrong. I strongly support responsible tax relief for working families in America. But this budget will run our economy in the ditch, and it will turn us to the days of large budget deficits, economic stagnation, high unemployment, and, yes, inflation.

I come from North Carolina, and we say North Carolina values call for balancing your budget every year and responsible policies. But this budget sends us on a river boat gamble with America's future.

Mr. Speaker, the other day I visited Anderson Creek Elementary School in my home county in North Carolina, and I saw the good work they are doing every day to prepare for a bright future in this country for those children. We are blessed with some of the most wonderful teachers and staff and dedicated parents and, yes, bright, hard-working students at Anderson Creek.

They are going like gang busters on a program we call Key to the Future. It is a reading award we give out each year. Here are some of the totals, and I would like to share with my colleagues what good work is being done on the ground out there where teachers work every day.

At Anderson Creek, of the 683 students enrolled this year, 500 one of those students have read more than 100 books on their own with their parents in the evening. In the kindergarten class alone, they read 24,883 books. In the first grade, they have read 37,514 books. In the second grade, the students have read 40,130 books.

As a former county commissioner, State legislator and two-term elected State superintendent, it does my heart good to see local communities throwing themselves into the education effort. It holds so much promise for a bright future for these children and for all the rest of us.

Mr. Speaker, the folks in Anderson Creek demonstrated the kind of priorities that Congress ought to be adopting. We should forgo the short-term appeal of an easy path and choose, instead, the right path. It takes vision and hard work, but in the end, the payoff is well worth the effort.

We missed an opportunity today to put money in the budget for school construction. I will talk about that at another time. But those are the kind of values that the people of North Carolina sent me to Congress to represent, and those are the values this Congress should embrace when making important decisions on the budget, taxes, and appropriations.

Today's vote was, unfortunately, a big step in the wrong direction. But, hopefully, Congress will get its priorities straight and enact policies that honor what I call North Carolina values and reflect the kind of priorities that the American people truly want and expect us to deal with.

#### CLEVELAND PASSES ISSUE 14; A BOND TO FIX CRUMBLING SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 8, the voters of the City